

Tuesday November 13, 2018

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
455 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Southwest  
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

I write to express my concern about and disapproval of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC's September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in *Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, MB Docket 05- 311.

I chair the Joint Public Access Committee, the members of which represent the municipalities of the Village of New Paltz and the Town of New Paltz, located in the Mid-Hudson Valley, New York State.

The Joint Public Access Committee oversees the operation of Channel 23, our local Public Access, Educational and Government Channel which is broadcast by our CATV operator, Spectrum.

This local presence enables the residents of our town and village to watch uniquely local programming about their community and local events and issues of interest to them. And that was the intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act – to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy. By defining “franchise fee” in an overly broad fashion to include “in-kind” support, the FCC’s proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators and will force communities to choose between franchise fees and PEG channels, – something that was never the intent of the Act.

We appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect PEG channels in our community and others by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Stewart', with a stylized, overlapping loop structure.

Anton W G Stewart

CC: The Honorable Michael O’Rielly, Commissioner  
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner  
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner